

Positive Outputs from the JARPA review workshop

The International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee (IWC/SC) carried out a review Workshop of the data and results obtained by the Japanese Whale Research Program in the Antarctic (JARPA) in December 2006. A total of 56 scientists from 14 countries, including the chair of the IWC/SC and the IWC Head of Science, participated in the Workshop.

Among other things the Workshop agreed on the following:

“The data set provides a valuable resource to allow investigation of some aspects of the role of whales within the marine ecosystem. With appropriate analyses, this has the potential to make an important contribution to the Scientific Committee's work in this regard, as well as the work of other relevant bodies such as CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources)”.

“The Workshop concurred with the view that the results from the JARPA programme, while not required for management under the RMP, have the potential to improve management of minke whales in the Southern Hemisphere in the following ways: (1) reductions in the current set of plausible scenarios considered in *Implementation Simulation Trials (ISTs)*; and (2) identification of new scenarios to which future *ISTs* will have to be developed. The results of analyses of JARPA data could be used in this way perhaps to increase the allowed catch of minke whales in the Southern Hemisphere, without increasing depletion risk above the level indicated by the existing *ISTs* of the RMP for these minke whales”.

“The JARPA Project has generated extensive data that are available to IWC scientists through the data sharing agreement. The program has also resulted in a number of publications in the IWC journals and in other international peer-reviewed journals. Except for cruise reports and commentaries there have been 22 articles in *Rep. Int Whal Commn* and *J. Cetacean Res Manage*, and 58 articles in [other] English language journals. Of the latter, the majority is in the fields of physiology, reproduction and chemistry, while six articles are concerned with management. In addition a total of 182 scientific documents based on JARPA data have been presented to the SC meetings”.